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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 401297/SOEL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

NOZAWA et al.

Application No. 09/899,191

Filed: July 6, 2001

For: LENS BARREL

Art Unit: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Replace the indicated claims with:

1. (Amended) A lens barrel comprising:
a plurality of cylindrical bodies expandable in a multistage fashion;
an optical lens system constituted by a plurality of lens groups disposed along an optical axis, all of said plurality of lens groups being accommodated in a leading cylindrical body to be extended among said plurality of cylindrical bodies; and
a driving source incorporated in said leading cylindrical body, wherein said optical lens system comprises at least one fixed lens group secured to said leading cylindrical body and at least one movable lens group movable along the optical axis upon receiving a driving force of said driving source.

2. (Amended) The lens barrel according to claim 1, wherein said optical lens system comprises two fixed lens groups, said movable lens group being disposed between said two fixed lens groups.

3. (Amended) The lens barrel according to claim 1, further comprising:
a movable lens frame having said movable lens group attached thereto;

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